

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 30, 2004. The Examiner's consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Claims 32-43 and 53-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai et al., and claims 44-52 and 61 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, without acquiescing to the appropriateness of the prior art rejection issued by the Examiner, and solely to further advance prosecution of this application: claim 42 has been amended to incorporate therein the subject matter of allowable claim 44; allowable claim 45 has basically been rewritten in independent form; allowable claim 48 has basically been written in independent form; allowable claim 51 has been rewritten in independent form; allowable claim 61 has been rewritten in independent form; claims 33, 37 and 41 have been amended so as to depend from allowable claims 45, 48 and 51, respectively; claims 32, 34-36, 38-40, 44 and 53-60 have been canceled; and claim 62 has been added, which claim is a method claim that corresponds to allowable apparatus claim 51.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, with the allowed claims being 33, 37, 41-43, 45-52, 61 and 62, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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